

Chapter *nine*

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Vehicle Information

New Jersey motorists must title and register each vehicle before legally driving on public roads. Registration documents must always be available to show to law enforcement, and should be stored in the vehicle or with the driver.

New state residents are required to title and register each vehicle within 60 days of moving into New Jersey. If an out-of-state registration expires before 60 days, new state residents are required to title and register the vehicle before the out-of-state registration expires.

How to Title a New Vehicle

Obtain the title from the dealership. Or, obtain the manufacturer's certificate of origin and check that the document has a 'sales tax satisfied' stamp on the back. Take these documents to any motor vehicle agency and pay the required titling fee.

How to Title a Used Vehicle

Complete the reverse side of the title with the buyer's name, address and signature, the date of sale, odometer reading and sale price.

Complete the sales tax information in the section that will be stamped either on the title or the form ISM/SS-7 (with out-of-state title). Buyers must pay a six-percent sales tax on the purchase price.

Present the signed title, sales tax form, the sales tax fee, or proof of sales tax payment, and pay the required titling fee.

To *avoid a \$25 penalty* when buying a used car, transfer the title within 10 business days of the sale.

How to Complete an Initial Registration

Complete the application at any motor vehicle agency, including current vehicle insurance company and personal policy number. For out-of-state titles, secure the original title from the lien holder or leasing company.

Show proof of ownership. For a new vehicle, a manufacturer's certificate of origin and a dealer's certificate of sale are proof. For a used vehicle, a title signed by the previous owner is proof. For a leased vehicle, secure power of attorney from the leasing company.

Show proof that all sales tax requirements have been met, or pay the tax at the motor vehicle agency.

Registration Renewal

MVC mails registration renewal notices at least two months in advance of expiration dates. Fill out the renewal form and return it in the mail to MVC. Include payment as a check or money order. If a renewal does not arrive by mail, renew at a motor vehicle agency.

MyMVC

AccessDMV is a quick, easy and efficient way to renew a registration for a car, boat, trailer or motorcycle. It's convenient. Use MyMVC on the telephone or over the Internet.

To use the 24-hour toll-free service call (877) DMV-NJ4U.

Or, go online at www.njmvconline.gov.

For both, a preprinted registration renewal with PIN number, valid insurance ID card and credit card is necessary.

Through the online service, motorists may also order specialty license plates or change an address.

General Registration Information

MVC no longer issues license plate registration decals to passenger vehicle and light truck owners, as of October 2004.

Motorists must be at least 17 years old to register a vehicle in New Jersey.

The fine for driving without a current registration document is \$173.



Inspection
Sticker

Title and Registration Corrections

Title or Registration Change	Required Proof
Vehicle type, make and year	Written statement by owner confirming vehicle identification number (VIN) or dealer verification, vehicle photo
Registration Code, Expiration Date	Previous registration
Mileage	Notarized Odometer Statement
Weight	Certified Weight Slip
Color, Axles	None

There will be no charge for title or registration corrections if MVC was in error. Otherwise, a \$20 title change fee and a \$5 registration change fee applies.

By mail, send a copy of the document in need of correction, the supporting proof as noted above, a check or money order and the specific change request to: NJ Motor Vehicle Commission, Data Base Corrections, P.O. Box 141, Trenton, NJ 08666-0141.

License Plates

Motorists will receive two license plates when initially registering a passenger vehicle. For trailers, motorized bicycles and motorcycles, motorists will receive one plate.

For passenger vehicles, attach one plate to the front bumper and one to the rear of the vehicle, at least 12 inches from the ground, but no more than 48 inches. The rear plate should be lit at night and be visible from 50 feet. Using license plate holders that obscure any lettering on the license plate is a violation that could result in a fine of up to \$200.



New Jersey License Plate

License Plate Facts and Information

If a license plate is lost or stolen, report the incident to local police. Retain a copy of the complaint. Replace lost or damaged license plates within 24 hours of the incident at any motor vehicle agency by turning in the damaged or remaining plate.

Out-of-use license plates should be immediately returned to MVC. Return these plates to any motor vehicle agency or any inspection facility. Ask for a receipt. Keep the receipt.

The use of forged or counterfeit license plates could result in a \$500 fine, 60 days imprisonment, and a driver license suspension of up to six months.

Disabled Plates/Placards

Handicapped license plates and a rearview mirror placard are available to disabled persons at no charge. These plates and the placard allow eligible motorists to park in designated spaces.

To obtain these plates and the placard, register the vehicle at any motor vehicle agency. Complete the form ISM/SP-41 with a physician, and mail it to the MVC address on the application. One set of handicapped license plates and/or one placard will be sent to the applicant.

Temporary, six-month placards are available for eligible motorists at local police departments only. The cost is \$4. Each temporary placard may be renewed only once.

Vehicle Inspection

All gasoline-fueled passenger vehicles, including motorcycles and trucks, manufactured in 2000 or later, do not require inspection for four years after brand-new original purchase. After the initial four-year inspection cycle, these vehicles must be inspected every two years.

When you move into New Jersey from another state, you must have your vehicle inspected within 14 days after registering it.

These inspections must take place at a state inspection facility, of which there are currently 31, or at a private inspection facility that is licensed by MVC. Private inspection facilities are located at more than 1,400 sites in New Jersey.

MVC inspects diesel-fueled passenger vehicles and trucks registered under 10,000 pounds for safety only. MVC may require these vehicles to undergo occasional roadside spot inspections.

Driving a vehicle with an expired inspection sticker may result in fines of between \$100 and \$200, and/or imprisonment for up to 30 days. Additionally, MVC may revoke registration privileges.

New Vehicles

The four-year inspection cycle applies only to new vehicles that meet the following criteria:

- Vehicle bears new car dealer inspection sticker
- Vehicle is currently owned by original owner
- Vehicle is still in the possession of the original lessee
- Vehicle model years 2001, 2002, 2003 and beyond are included
- Model year 2000 vehicles purchased in 2001 are included

Extension stickers should be placed on the inside driver-side window above the current new car dealer sticker. Do not remove the new car dealer sticker.

Motorcycle owners/lessees must carry the extension sticker when operating the motorcycle.

Extension stickers may not apply to certain vehicle types. Read inserts included in MVC mailings for further information, or call, (609) 292-6500.

Used Cars

Owners have the option to take the vehicle for inspection within 14 days after registration expires or accept the time left on the previous owner's inspection sticker.

General Inspection Information



To be eligible for inspection, all motorists must bring a valid driver license, and current registration and insurance documents, to either a state or private inspection facility.

High-rise and reconstructed vehicles must be inspected at specially equipped inspection stations in Winslow (Gloucester County), Asbury Park (Monmouth), and Morristown (Morris). Call (888) 486-3339 for more information.

Gasoline-powered vehicles must be inspected every two years at a state or private inspection station. MVC conducts roadside inspections to help ensure compliance with state laws.

Inspection Program Details

New Jersey must comply with standards defined in the federal Clean Air Act by inspecting every vehicle's catalytic converter and emissions system.

Several types of tests are now used in New Jersey. For vehicles manufactured before 1996, a treadmill is used to monitor emissions during acceleration. For vehicles manufactured in 1996 or later, New Jersey uses the On-board Diagnostics, or OBD, test.

OBD allows technicians to download emissions information from an on-board computer found in most vehicles manufactured in 1996 or later. MVC analyzes emissions data in this way to determine if the vehicle passes inspection. Any vehicle with a lit 'check engine' light, or 'maintenance' light, will automatically fail the OBD test.

Inspection Test Results

Motorists whose vehicles pass inspection will receive an inspection sticker.

Motorists whose vehicles do not pass inspection will have until the end of the next month to make necessary repairs and return for reinspection at a state or private inspection facility. Vehicles overdue for inspection do receive additional time to make necessary repairs.

All emissions repairs must be completed by a state-licensed emissions repair facility.

Inspection Exemptions

Certain vehicles are exempt from the state's inspection program. Historic and collector cars are exempt from the state's inspection program.

Historic vehicles are at least 25 years old, used only for exhibition purposes and registered with "QQ" license plates.

Collector cars display two standard license plates, and have a triangular decal on the front left windshield, that are valid for two years. Limited-use collector status insurance applies. This status must be renewed every two years, by providing proof the vehicle is not driven more than 3,000 miles annually.

Insurance

Liability auto insurance is mandatory in New Jersey. Every vehicle registered in New Jersey must have liability insurance.

The type and cost of insurance coverage can vary. Coverage choices and options are available at the Department of Banking and Insurance Web site, www.state.nj.us/dobi.

A New Jersey Insurance Identification Card will be provided by the insurance company for every vehicle insured under the policy. This card should remain in the vehicle. Show it before inspection, at an accident scene, if stopped for a traffic violation or for a roadside spot check performed by law enforcement.

Driving an uninsured vehicle can result in fines, community service, license suspension and insurance surcharges.